

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 17 and 20 are pending after entry of this Amendment.
- Claims 21-24 are constructively withdrawn by Examiner.
- Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 17 and 20 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claim 8 is also objected to by Examiner.
- Claims 1, 8, 17, and 20 are currently amended by Applicant.

Examiner Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held via telephone on November 6, 2003. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicant discussed the differences between the Davis et al. reference and the present invention. Function as well as configuration differences were noted by the interview participants. Aspects of the first independent claim were discussed including the use of the adapter with a digital subscriber line filter and the respective electrical conductors extending outside the housing to the filter. It was agreed that these aspects may render the first independent claim distinguishable over Davis et al.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner remarks of an inconsistency in the Claims 1 and 20 as to whether Applicant intends to claim the combination of the adapter and the electrical filter.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite, among other things, an interface adapter for inserting an external digital subscriber line filter into a telephone network having a plurality of electrical conductors extending from the adapter housing, the electrical conductors being capable of connection to the filter wherein the filter produces distinct electrical signals and is external to the interface adapter.

Applicant submits that this language recites that the adaptor is constructed to interface with an external digital subscriber line filter and that the filter connects at the ends of electrical conductors that extend out from the housing. Applicant submits that the filter is not integrally part of the adapter as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 clarifies the elements of the interface adapter. With this Amendment and understanding, Applicant submits that the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection to independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 17 and 20 is traversed.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,290,664 to Davis et al. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 in order to more distinctly claim the present invention.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, among other elements, that the first, second, and third subsets of electrical conductors extend outside the housing to the external filter.

Davis et al. does not teach or suggest that a first, second, and third subset of electrical conductors extend outside the housing to an external filter as in amended Claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

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Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3, 7, 17 and 20 are now in a condition for allowance.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,290,664 to Davis et al. in view of the Examiners rationale of applying routine skill in the art.

Claim 8 is an dependent claim which is ultimately dependent on amended Claim 1 which is now in a condition for allowance over Davis et al. Thus dependent Claim 8 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claim 8 is traversed.

Objection to Claim 8

The Examiner has objected to Claim 8 as having an element which lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended Claim 8 to recite *an* entrance face *for the plurality of electrical conductors*. Applicant submits that the objection to dependent Claim 8 is therefore traversed.

Restriction Requirement and Constructive Withdrawal

The Examiner has restricted Claims 21-24 from the other pending claims and has constructively withdrawn Claims 21-24. Applicant accepts the constructive withdrawal of Claims 21-24 and the corresponding constructive election of Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 17 and 20 without traversal.

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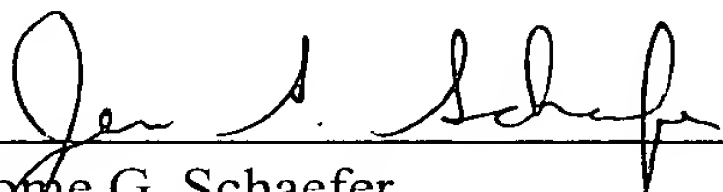
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Conclusion

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments herein. In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the current amendments, in light of the reasons herein, place the pending claims of the present application in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims of the Application and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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